Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ACCRA 05644 140534Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
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C O N F I D E N T I A L ACCRA 5644

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, SOPN, GH
SUBJ: SMC MAKES IMPORTANT CHANGES IN PRESS LEADERSHIP

1. GHANA TIMES JULY 13 REPORTS "RETIREMENT" OF MANAGING DIRECTOR OF NEW TIMES CORPORATION ALHAJI BRAIMEH SALIFU. CORPORATION IS PARENT BODY TO ALL GOVERNMENT-OWNED NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS.

2. GYAWU-KYEM, SUPERVISING EDITOR OF NEW TIMES CORPORATION, EDITOR OF PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT DAILY, GHANA TIMES, AND CONSTANT THORN IN EMBASSY'S SIDE ALSO RELIEVED OF HIS JOB. SUPERVISING EDITOR JOB GOES TO ABRAHAM KUTIN-MENSAH, FORMER EDITOR OF WEEKLY SPECTATOR. NEW EDITOR OF TIMES WILL BE CHRISTIAN AGGREY, FORMER DEPUTY EDITOR OF THE DAILY GRAPHIC.

3. COMMENT: DEPARTURE OF SOLIFU AND GWAYU-KYEM WIDELY EXPECTED SINCE THEY LEADING APOLOGISTS FOR ACHEAMPONG REGIME AND BOTH CONSIDERED FIRMLY IN SOVIET CAMP. SALIFU WAS WIDELY RECOGNIZED AS KEY SOVIET AGENT OF INFLUENCE. HE WAS, MOREOVER, RECENTLY INVOLVED IN SCANDAL AT NEW TIMES CORPORATION OVER KICKBACKS IN SALE OF NEWSPRINT. APPOINTMENTS TO
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PAGE 02 ACCRA 05644 140534Z

GWAYU-KYEM'S TWO JOBS HIGHLY SIGNIFICANT IN LIGHT OF PRO-WESTERN STANCE OF BOTH NEW EDITORS. KUTIN-MENSAH'S SPECTATOR HAS LONG BEEN LOCAL PAPER MOST ACCESSIBLE TO US MATERIALS. HE WAS US SPECIALIST GRANTEE IN 1970. CHRISTIAN AGGREY ALSO KNOWN AS PRO-U.S.. BOTH APPOINTMENTS FOLLOW THE EMERGING PATTERN OF NEW LEADERSHIP REPLACING ACHEAMPONG

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AIDES WITH PERSONS MORE PRO-WESTERN IN OUTLOOK.
HOLMES

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